Docket No.: 31862.000065

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Baller, Eric Henry, et al.	Examiner:	Vaughn Jr., William C
Serial No.	10/028,126	Art Unit:	2143
Filed:	12/20/01		

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING INTELLIGENT ASSETS IN A DISTRIBUTED ENVIRONMENT

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

We, Eric Henry Baller, John Thomas Canosa, John Maitland Cook III, David Patrick Hart, Christopher James Kuntz, John Louis Taylor, Dimitrios Psarros, Thomas Chiarella, and Rajeev Raman hereby declare that:

1. We are named as joint inventors for the invention disclosed and claimed in US Patent Application No. 10/028,126 filed on December 20, 2001 and hereinafter referred to as the "subject application".

2. All of the pending claims 1-31 in the subject application stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,430,711 to Sekizawa in view of US Application Publication No. 2003/0072027 corresponding to US Patent Application No. 09/976,625 of Haines et al., the latter hereinafter referred to as the "Haines application".

3. The Haines application has an effective date as a reference corresponding to its US filing date of October 11, 2001, which is a little more than two months before the filing date of the subject application.

4. Before October 11, 2001, the effective date of the Haines application, the invention set forth in claims 1-31 of the subject application was completed in this country in the form of an actual reduction to practice.

5. Evidence of the completion of the claimed invention is found in attached Exhibits A-E, all of which were prepared by Questra Corporation, the assignee of record, as internal documentation before October 11, 2001, the effective date of the Haines application.

6. Exhibit A includes relevant portions of a document entitled "A2B.Platform Architecture", which describes the A2B Platform an assembly of components for connecting remote devices to a central system. Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual

domain of the A2B.Platform. Figure 2, which appears at the bottom of page 2, illustrates an example of an A2B appliance-based community, showing an A2B Device Framework for adapting the devices for Internet communication with and A2B Enterprise Framework that further communicates with an enterprise system. Figure 4 illustrates a SOAP message structure for communicating with remote devices corresponding to Figure 4 of the subject application.

7. Exhibit B includes relevant portions of a document entitled "A2B Technology & Packaging", which illustrates three connection options including Option 1: No bridge necessary, Option 2: A2B Device-side Bridge, and Option 3: A2B Server-side Bridge.

8. Exhibit C includes relevant portions of a document entitled "Remote Control Management Module Design Document" describing the framework for connecting remote machines to a central system in accordance with the invention.

a) The "Remote Control Management Module Design Document" was prepared before the effective date of the Haines application for the benefit of those "who maintain update and support the implementation of the module" (see page 1 under the heading "Audience"). It is also instructive to note that under the heading "Implementation Issues" on the same page is the indication of "none", evidencing no impediments to the implementation of the module.
b) A component diagram of the remote control management system for connecting a server to a remote device is shown in Figure 1 on page 2. The diagram shows the distribution of components of the remote control management system between a web server, and A2B "Enterprise" server, and a remote device.
c) A diagram depicting a database design that supports the information requirements of the remote control management system appears in Figure 2 on page 3.
d) An interface used by an application (web server) with the A2B server is depicted and described with reference to Figure 12 as a remote control management proxy.
e) An interface used by the A2B server with the remote device server is depicted and described with reference to Figure 13 as a remote control proxy.
f) Table 6 on page 21 shows the configuration of SOAP encoded messages enabling remote devices to register its web service. Encoded within the messages are the "MemberId" and "Password" of the device.
g) Table 12 spanning pages 24 and 25 shows the configuration of a SOAP encoded messages used to query and respond concerning web service profiles, property and command metadata and a SOAP encoded response from a remote device. Note that a "MemberId" and "Password" are embedded within the message.

h) Table 16 on pages 27 and 28 documents a SOAP message and response for transmitting a list of property names and for returning with a list of values for the requested properties.
i) Table 19 on pages 29 and 30 documents a SOAP message for setting a list of properties on remote devices.

9. Exhibit D is a document entitled "A2B Messaging Context Diagram" illustrating communications across firewalls.

10. Exhibit E is a spreadsheet document evidencing the completion of the various interface and framework components of the invention through version v2.1, all before October 11, 2001, the effective date of the Haines application.

11. We declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signatures of Declarants:

Eric Henry Baller Date

John Thomas Canosa Date

John Maitland Cook III Date

David Patrick Hart Date

Christopher James Kuntz Date

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7. Exhibit B includes relevant portions of a document entitled "A2B Technology & Packaging", which illustrates three connection options including Option 1: No bridge necessary, Option 2: A2B Device-side Bridge, and Option 3: A2B Server-side Bridge.

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Eric Henry Baller Date

John Thomas Canosa Date

John M. Cook III 10/12/04
John Maitland Cook III Date

David Patrick Hart Date

Christopher James Kuntz Date

John Louis Taylor	Date
Dimitrios Psarros	Date
Thomas Chiarella	Date
Rajeev Raman	Date

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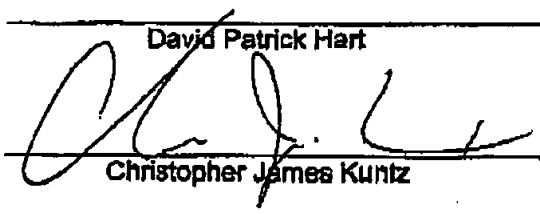
David Patrick Hart Date

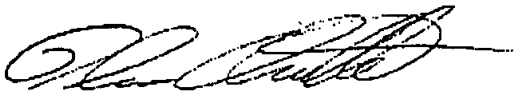


Christopher James Kuntz 10/10/2004
Date

John Louis Taylor	Date
Dimitrios Psarros	Date
Thomas Chiarella	Date
Rajeev Raman	Date

John Louis Taylor Date

Dimitrios Psarros Date


11/8/2004

Thomas Chiarella Date

Rajeev Raman Date